

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data storage cartridge comprising:
a housing defining an access window;
a door coupled to the housing and being configured to selectively cover the access window; and
a hard drive maintained within the housing and configured to be accessed from a point external to the data storage cartridge via the access window.
2. The data storage cartridge of claim 1, wherein the housing has an interior surface that defines the access window and the door is positioned between the interior surface and the hard drive.
3. The data storage cartridge of claim 2, wherein the door is rotatably coupled to the housing, the door being configured to rotate between a closed position and an open position, further wherein when in the closed position, the door covers the access window, and when in the open position, the door uncovers the access window.
4. The data storage cartridge of claim 1, wherein the door is maintained within the housing.
5. The data storage cartridge of claim 1, wherein the hard drive includes at least one connection point, the hard drive being positioned within the housing such that the at least one connection point is aligned with the access window.

6. The data storage cartridge of claim 1, wherein the housing is configured to be received by a tape drive emulator, and further wherein the data storage cartridge is configured such that reception of the data storage cartridge by the tape drive emulator actuates the door to uncover the access window.

7. The data storage cartridge of claim 6, wherein the housing defines a pin reception slot configured to guide an actuator pin of the tape drive emulator towards the door, the actuator pin being configured to contact and actuate the door to uncover the access window.

8. The data storage cartridge of claim 1, wherein the door is biased to a closed position covering the access window.

9. The data storage cartridge of claim 8, further comprising:
a torsion spring coupled to the housing and the door, the torsion spring
biasing the door to the closed position.

10. The data storage cartridge of claim 1, wherein the data storage cartridge is configured to be selectively received by a tape drive emulator, and removal of the data storage cartridge from the tape drive emulator actuates the door to cover the access window.

11. The data storage cartridge of claim 1, wherein the housing has a form factor of a standard data storage tape cartridge.

12. The data storage cartridge of claim 1, wherein the housing is configured to be stored and manipulated in a data storage cartridge library.

13. The data storage cartridge of claim 1, wherein the housing includes a first housing section defining a interior surface and a first wall extending from the interior surface, the interior surface defining the access window adjacent the first wall.

14. The data storage cartridge of claim 13, wherein the door includes a first edge configured to at least partially interact with the first wall when the door covers the access window.

15. The data storage cartridge of claim 14, wherein the first edge includes an angled portion configured to provide additional clearance of the access window when the door uncovers the access window.

16. A method of accessing a hard drive stored within a data storage cartridge, the method comprising:

providing a data storage cartridge including:

a housing defining an access window,

a door rotatably mounted to the housing and being configured to selectively cover the access window, and

a hard drive maintained within the housing;

at least partially inserting the data storage tape cartridge into a tape drive emulator and transitioning the door to open the access window; and

accessing the hard drive through the access window with the tape drive emulator.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the hard drive includes at least one connection point, and accessing the hard drive through the access window includes connecting the tape drive emulator to the at least one connection point.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of transitioning the door to open the access window includes pivoting the door away from the access window.
19. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of transitioning the door to open the access window includes applying an external force to the door having sufficient magnitude to overcome a bias of the door to cover the access window.
20. The method of claim 16, further comprising:
 - removing the data storage tape cartridge from the tape drive emulator and
 - transitioning the door to close the access window.